

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An analyzer for analyzing analyte operable under a plurality of operation modes, the analyzer comprising:

a memory for storing a plurality of screens and
5 hierarchical menus corresponding to predetermined
screens;

a screen display means for controlling to display a screen selected from a plurality of screens;

a hierarchical menu display means for controlling to
10 display a hierarchical menu corresponding to a
predetermined screen while the predetermined screen is
being displayed;

a selection means for selecting one command from the hierarchical menu; and

15 a control means for controlling the analyzer in
accordance with a selected command;

wherein the hierarchical menu is used to
specify a single command from among a plurality of
operation commands.

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2. The analyzer of claim 1 wherein the plurality of
screens comprises a first group of screens and a second
group of screens.

3. The analyzer of claim 1 wherein the predetermined screen to which the hierarchical menu corresponds is selected from a stored sample screen for displaying a list of analyte analysis results, a quality control screen for displaying statistical graphs of quality control, a maintenance screen for maintenance of the analyzer, and a setting screen for selecting type of analysis result to be transmitted.

4. The analyzer of claim 1 wherein the plurality of screens comprises a first group of screens, a second group of screens, and a main screen; wherein one among either the screens of the first group of screens and the screens of the second group of screens correspond to the hierarchical menu; and

wherein the main screen comprises a first link button for linking to screens of the first group of screens, and a second link button for linking to screens of the second group of screens.

5. The analyzer of claim 4 wherein the screens of the first group of screens and the screens of the second group of screens comprise a link button for returning to the main screen.

6. The analyzer of claim 5 wherein:

at least one screen of the first group of screens is an analysis screen for inputting an analysis condition;

at least one screen of the second group of screens is a stored sample screen for displaying a list of analyte analysis results; and

the stored sample screen corresponds to a hierarchical menu.

7. The analyzer of claim 6 wherein the analysis screen is displayed when a power source of the analyzer is switched on.

8. The analyzer of claim 1 further comprising a touch panel display on which the screen is displayed.

9. An analyzer comprising:

a display for displaying a predetermined screen selected from a first screen, a second screen, and a main screen; and

a controller for controlling to display the predetermined screen on the display;

wherein either the first screen or the second screen corresponds to a hierarchical menu; and

the main screen comprises a first link for linking to the first screen and a second link for linking to the second screen.

5 10. The analyzer of claim 9 wherein each of the first screen and the second screen comprises a link button for returning to the main screen.

10 11. The analyzer of claim 9 wherein the predetermined screen is displayed on a display screen which comprises a first area for displaying a start button for starting analysis of a sample and a second area for displaying the predetermined screen.

15 12. The analyzer of claim 11 wherein the first screen is an analysis screen for inputting a condition of an analysis, and wherein the start button is invalid while at least one of the second screen and the main screen is displayed.

20 13. The analyzer of Claim 9 wherein the first screen is an analysis screen for inputting a condition of an analysis, and the analysis screen is displayed when a power source of the analyzer is switched on.

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14. The analyzer of claim 9 wherein the first screen is selected from an analysis screen for inputting a condition of an analysis, a reagent replacement screen for inputting reagent replacement information, a status
5 screen for displaying temperature information related to the analyzer, and a shutdown screen for displaying a description of a sequence for shutting down the analyzer.

15. The analyzer of claim 14 wherein the second screen
10 comprises a function button.

16. The analyzer of Claim 9 wherein the second screen is selected from a stored sample screen for displaying a list of analysis results, a quality control screen for
15 displaying statistical graphs of quality control, a maintenance screen for maintenance of the analyzer, and a setting screen for selecting types of analysis results to be transmitted.

20 17. The analyzer of claim 16 wherein the second screen comprises a function button.

18. The analyzer of claim 9 wherein the first screen comprises a jump button for converting to the second
25 screen.

19. The analyzer of claim 9 further comprising:

an assay mechanism for obtaining a signal from a sample; and

5 a body for housing the assay mechanism and the controller;

wherein the controller analyzes the signal.

20. The analyzer of Claim 19 wherein the display

10 comprises a touch panel display.

21. An analyzer comprising:

an assay mechanism for obtaining a signal from a sample;

15 a touch panel display for displaying a predetermined screen selected from a first screen comprising a function button for opening a hierarchical menu and a second screen;

a controller for controlling to display the predetermined screen on a display and analyzing signals; and

20 a body for housing the assay mechanism and the controller.

22. The analyzer of claim 21 wherein the second screen comprises a third screen and a main screen that comprises a first link button for converting to the first screen.

5 23. The analyzer of claim 21 wherein the second screen comprises a third screen and a main screen that comprises a second link button for converting to the third screen.

24. The analyzer of claim 23
10 wherein the predetermined screen is displayed on a display screen which comprises a first area for displaying a start button for starting analysis of a sample and a second area for displaying the predetermined screen.

15 25. The analyzer of claim 24 wherein the first screen is an analysis screen for inputting a condition of an analysis, and wherein the start button is invalid while the third screen is displayed and while the main screen
20 is displayed.

26. The analyzer of claim 22 wherein the first screen is an analysis screen for entering an analysis condition, and wherein the analysis screen is displayed when a power
25 source of the analyzer is switched on.

27. An analyzer comprising:

a display for displaying a display screen comprising
a first region for displaying a start button for starting
5 analysis of a sample and a second region for displaying a
predetermined screen selected from a first screen and a
main screen; and

a controller for controlling to display the display
screen on the display;

10 wherein the first screen comprises a function
button for opening a hierarchical menu;

the main screen comprises a first link button
for linking to the first screen; and

the start button is displayed when at least one
15 of the first screen and the main screen is displayed.

28. The analyzer of claim 27 wherein the first screen is
an analysis screen for inputting an analysis condition,
and wherein the start button is invalid while the main
20 screen is displayed.

29. The analyzer of claim 27 wherein the first screen is
an analysis screen for inputting an analysis condition,
and wherein the analysis screen is displayed when power
25 to the analyzer is switched on.

30. The analyzer of claim 27 further comprising:

an assay mechanism for obtaining a signal from a sample; and

5 a body for housing the assay mechanism and the controller;

wherein the controller analyzes the signal.

31. The analyzer of claim 30 wherein the display

10 comprises a touch panel display.